

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

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R 070855Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4443

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO

SUBJECT: MINISTER ISSUES AUTHORIZED STATEMENT OF SHMALI FOREIGN
POLICY

SUMMARY: IN A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 2,
REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY FOREIGN COGYESPONDENTS, THE SOMALI
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, ABDIKASIM
SALAD HASSAN, ISSUED A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF GSDR DOMESTIC
AND FOREIGN POLICY. ON THE FOREIGN POLICY SIDE, THE STATEMENT
CONTAINS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE BUT HEAVILY EMPHASIZES THE
GSDR'S "CLEAR CUT POLICY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN WORLD PROGRESS-
IVE FORCES AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE NEO-COLONIALISTS, IMPER-
IALISTS, RACISTS AND ZIONISTS". THE FULL TEXT IS BEING
POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ABDIKASIM CHARACTERIZED SOMALIA AS BOTH AN "ARAB" AND AN
"AFRICAN" COUNTRY AND ONE WHICH "SHARES A COMMON IDEOLOGY
WITH THE SOCIALIST (MOSCOW-LEANING) COUNTRIES". SOMALIESIS
ALSO A "MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNMENT WORLD COMMUNITY" AND, AS
SUCH, OPPOSED TO "MILITARY ALLIANCES AND BASES", AS WELL AS
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"IMPERIALIST OPPRESSION AND NEO-COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION".

2. THE GSDR IS THANKFUL TO ALL COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE LENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY "OUR ARAB BROTHERS, THE SOCIALIST AND THE EEC COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK".

3. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE GSDR BELIEVES THAT "COOPERATION AND PEACE" ARE ESSENTIAL FOR "WORLD DEVELOPMENT", AND SOMALIA DOES NOT "HARBOR ANY ENMITY OR ILL-WILL TO ANY NATION BUT ... WELCOMES ANY RELATIONS BASED ON COOPERATION, EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE "MISSING SOMALI LANDS" (ETHIOPIA'S OGADEN, KENYA'S NORTH EASTERN PROVINCE AND THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF THE AFARS AND ISSAS), ABDIKASIM SAID THE GSDR "HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE SOMALI PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED LANDS". THE GSDR BELIEVES THE DIVISION OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE IS A COLONIAL LEGACY AND SHOULD BE SOLVED IN AN "AFRICAN AND NEIGHBORLY" CONTEXT. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO ABDIKASIM, THE GSDR "HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR ITS OPPOSITION TO WAR AS A SOLUTION AND WILL NEVER TRY IT UNLESS COMPELLED TO DO SO".

5. ON THE TFAI IN PARTICULAR, ABDIKASIM SAID THE GSDR "BELIEVES IN THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE DJIBOUTI PEOPLE AND UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THIS TERRITORY".

6. COMMENT: ABDIKASIM'S STATEMENT CONTAINS THE FULLEST DESCRIPTION OF THE GSDR'S FOREIGN POLICY THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. IT IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS MUCH SPECULATION IN MOGADISCIO DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES ABOUT A POSSIBLE CHANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY SIGNALS. SOME DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE IS INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE HEAVY SOVIET SUPPORT FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LT. GEN. MOHAMED ALI SAMATAR AND MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ENCOMPASSING SOVIET ROLE HERE. IF SO, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF IT. ABDIKASIM'S STATEMENT OF SOMALI FOREIGN POLICY ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE GSDR'S CONSISTENT HEAVY BIAS TOWARDS THE USSR AND "PROGRESSIVE" WORLD FORCES. ABDIKASIM'S CALL FOR

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PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO SOMALIA'S BORDER PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, IS A POSITIVE NOTE. WHAT ABDIKASIM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SAYING IN GENERAL, AND THIS WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE, IS THAT THE GSDR WILL WELCOME AID FROM ANY SOURCE, EVEN FROM THE "IMPERIALISTS", AS LONG AS LITTLE OR NO QUID PRO QUO IS EXPECTED.
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